Chresto Ministries

THE BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN

"Promoting Biblical Christianity Among Gays and Lesbians"

"Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God . . ." 1 Peter 2:10

10 + TEN = 500

by Pastor Fred Pattison

What a strange formula. What does it mean? This year's Annual T-E-N Weekend was probably the best one to date. After the closing Sunday evening service I came home feeling like I had soared to the heavens. That evening while sleeping I had a dream. No, I didn't have pizza before going to bed. In the dream I began making plans for next year's T-E-N. In my dream the above formula came to me very strongly. And what does it stand for?

The first 10 is symbolic of the 10th Annual T-E-N Weekend that we will be holding the last weekend in February 1997. The word TEN of course stands for "The Evangelical Network." The 500? I was impressed that we are to strive at having 500 attending next year's Annual Weekend. Was this of the Lord or not? I'm not sure, however I believe that we need to get working at making this dream a reality.

Pastor Fred Pattison

The Theme for the Weekend will be on HEALING. Healing of the whole person: emotions, spiritual and physical. I am excited as to the possibilities of emphasizing a week around this theme. There is such a need for healing in our society. Healing from all kinds of addictions, from guilt, from brokenness as well as physical healing from all kinds of illnesses. I am one of those people who believes that the gifts of healing are still in operation in the Body of Christ.

A number of people have already contacted me and shared with me their support of our 10th Annual T-E-N. I am hoping that each church will select someone to serve as a recruiter to help us reach the 500 goal. Some churches may want to encourage people to begin saving their money for the weekend. In coming issues of "The Biblical Christian" there will be additional information.

"The Remnant Sings"

"Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; . . ." Isaiah 51:11a (KJV) Phoenix Arizona during the summer months hardly compares to the promised magnificance of the city of Zion, but we still want the musically talented and redeemed remnants of the lesbian and gay (and other outcasts) community to return to our city this summer for a time of fellowship, learning and singing. "The Remnant Sings" is a vision given to our brother Ronnie Pigg this past year for the production of a musical video, much like the Gaither videos) that would be planned, directed, produced, participated in and distributed by our community. Our Christian community has some of the best talent both instrumentally and vocally that God has placed in the body of Christ. We believe that it is the desire of God that we start using it in much more far reaching endeavors than ministering in our local assemblies. Therefore, "The Remnant Sings" becomes a ministry that could reach far away places like New Zealand and South Africa as well as our own local community.

So this weekend worship convacation is being held on the weekend of June 14-16 , 1996. The worshops are still being planned, but the actual weekend will consist of the follwing activities. Friday will consist of all day workshops. Some of the topics being taught are Mime in Worship, Signing in Worship, The Tabernacle of David and Psalmatry in Worship. Friday's activities will end with a worship service at Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church. Saturday morning will be the actual taping sessions for the video "The Remnant Sings" finishing the day with another worship service at Casa. On Sunday Morning Casa will hosting a TABERNACLE SERVICE. Also scheduled for Sunday is a banquet at a local hotel. During the banquet we will be viewing the first cut of "The Remnant Sings" video. You just can't beat an offer where you can feed your belly and your spirit at the same time.

What a wonderful excuse to get away from the daily grind and have a good time yet still serve the Lord. And what is the cost of attending this exciting and funfilled weekend with your sisters and brothers in Christ? Except for a $20.00 charge for the banquet there is none. We want this weekend to be open to

(Continued on page 5)

WILL HAWAII COME THROUGH?

by Fred Pattison

The island state of Hawaii is causing great stir in the state houses of the various states of the continental USA. Our own Arizona Legislature is no exception to this. An East Valley lawmaker has crafted legislation designed to ban same-sex marriages in Arizona.

Rep. Jeff Groscost, R-Mesa, has introduced a proposal before the House States Rights and Mandates Committee. If the state of Hawaii should permit same-sex marriages, Arizona, and at least 29 other states, are working on passing laws that would prohibit same-sex marriages permitted in another state from being legally recognized in our state.

Mr. Groscost's objection of recognizing same-sex marriages is described in this manner: ***"We give certain benefits that follow marriage and the recognition of marriage. We give those benefits, by and large, because we look at it as a union that will be raising children."***

The state of Hawaii is being sued by three homosexual couples who were denied marriage licenses in 1992. The Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that denying the licenses violates Hawaii's state constitution unless the state can demonstrate a "compelling interest." At this point the case is before a lower court. A ruling is expected sometime in July.

Strange bedfellows have formed an organization called "Stop Promoting Homosexuality America" which includes evangelicals and other conservative Protestants, Roman Catholics, Mormons, Buddhists, Hindus and a number of atheists. All who are part of this organization are opposed to legalizing same-sex marriage.

Why do many gays and lesbians want same-sex marriage legalized? At the present time only heterosexual couples legally married are entitled to the benefits accorded to married couples. In many areas unless a couple is married their partner is barred from visiting their loved one in a hospital emergency situation, cannot make decisions in the event that a spouse is declared legally incompetent, cannot collect pension and other benefits upon the death of a spouse, etc.

Many state legislatures are presently rushing through pieces of legislation that would bar recognizing same-sex marriages in their particular states if such marriages should be declared legal in Hawaii.

Whether or not Hawaii recognizes such marriages many of us believe that in the sight of God such marriages are valid when the couple is equally yoked together in Christian Covenant in Christ. ***"What God joins together no person [or governmental body] should separate."*** (Pattison's paraphrase)

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Publisher Statements

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SPIRITFEST 96

Our friends from Grace Ministries will be holding their Annual SpiritFest. It will be held the Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27) with the theme: "...they will S O A R with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31).
The renewal weekend is held in a lovely setting in rural Arkansas. The cost for the weekend is $165. For more information contact either Linda Harris or Bob Ellis at (214) 528-2811 or (214) 520-7919.

THINK ABOUT IT!

"Transferring Christians from one church to another is not what Jesus had in mind when he gave us the Great Commission. God called us to be fishers of people, not to swap fish between aquariums." (from Myths About Growning Churches)

IS HOMOSEXUALITY THE CULPRIT?

by Fred L. Pattison

Listen to your local Christian radio station and it won't be very long before you hear the "H" word being used in one way or another. The "H" word that I am referring to is homosexual. It appears that few of the preachers, and especially the ones seeking big bucks from their audiences, can preach a sermon without touching on homosexuality and homosexual persons. Homosexuals have become the modern-day scapegoat to blame for all of the evils of our day and in our society.

It seems to me that many preachers display an ignorance when it comes to dealing with homosexuals and homosexuality. Pastors often buy into the unbiblical agenda of such groups as *Focus On The Family, The Christian Coalition* and similar groups.

To get the attention of Christians many preachers and writers use key words and phrases such as: *family, nation, morality, sex, etc.* Almost immediately there is a ready-made audience willing to listen and buy into what is being presented regardless of whether it is accurate or not. These are sensitive topics that engender emotional response. To blame homosexuals and homosexuality for all of societies ills with a blanket condemnation is unreasonable, unthinking and/or dishonest and sheer ignorant, not to mention unchristian. We hear preachers lump together homosexuals with child sexual molestation, perversion, animal sex, AIDS, etc. How bizarre.

Heterosexuals are their worst enemy. Why do 50% of heterosexual marriages end in divorce? Why are the vast majority of child sexual abuse cases perpetrated by the heterosexual members of the child's family? Why are an increasing number of heterosexual Christian leaders (pastors, evangelists, deacons, elders) being exposed as having adulterous affairs? No, homosexuality has little to do with the break-down and break-up of the American family. Heterosexuals are doing a good job themselves without the help of homosexuals.

God set in motion basic guidelines thousands of years ago that the western world has forsaken. Even Christians have forsaken these guidelines. And what are these guidelines? They are called the Ten Commandments. They have nothing to do with salvation, however they are basic standards for good living as individuals, as families and as a nation. If society would get back to these guidelines and start adhering to them there would be a restoration of morality. Society would again be what God intends it to be. Church leaders and politicians would be moral, ethical and worthy of respect. Western society would be renewed. There would be a decrease in the ills which presently plague our society.

These guidelines are simple, to the point, and not burdensome. I am contemporizing them:

1. (Ex 20:3) - There is only one God and to Him alone we are to ascribe worship (Dt. 6:4-5; Jn. 4:23-24).

2. (Ex 20:4-5) - Nothing and no one must be allowed to come between us and God (1 Tim. 2:3-5).

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ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF ROSEANNE LAWRENCE TO FULL TIME MUSIC MINISTRY

Ms. Lawrence is available for concerts for your assembly or fellowship group.

For more information, contact Ms. Lawrence at (602) 973-0490 .

"A warrior in praise and worship."

PRAISE HIM!

by Bob Shamblin

Psalms 100:4 says, "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." If we, His people, would only remember to do that, His courts would be full, and so would our churches.

So often, we enter His gates with either complacency or worse yet, critical and complaining hearts. Neither of these bring glory to our God.

Being in God's courts have been the times of my life that I cherish the most. Once you have been in the presence of Almighty God, your heart cannot help but be changed for a lifetime. What we choose to do with that change is up to us. We can seal that change up so deeply in our hearts that no one, except ourselves, can notice it. OR, we can allow that change to overflow from our hearts and spill onto those around us.

God help us to be like the clay in the hands of the potter as in Jeremiah 18:1-6. While we are in God's hands-the presence of the Living God-we can be molded and shaped into a willing, usable vessel. While we are in the Potter's hands, we are still pliable. Once we go forth on our own, we are out of the protective hands of our maker. That's when we must be broken and remolded to get us back into a usable vessel.

Let's take advantage of our time in the Lord's presence. Allow the Lord to mold and shape us into what He would have us be.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise and see what wonderful things the Lord will do. There is still a lost and dying world out there to reach. God help us to be Your hands outstretched to our own community, and beyond.

I DID IT!

BY LEE MICHELSON

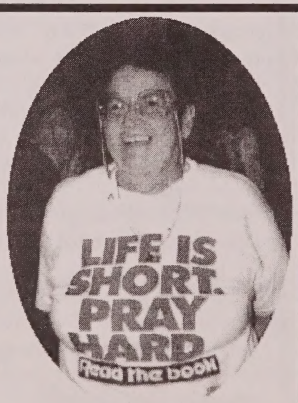
Well I did it! I took the class. Now, I didn't need the class. I had already had peace of mind for a long, long time about my homosexuality. As time past on I figured out that it was alright for me to be gay and Christian, no matter what some of those TV ministers said. I know God made me just as I was. And I also knew that something about me needed to be fine tuned. Like my walk with Jesus and some habits I had picked up along the way. But my homosexuality, **no way**! For God doesn't make junk so I had to be alright.

Anyway, I rationalized that those who wrote the Bible were men and probably hung up on their rules, regulations and so on, perhaps even their sexuality. But as I have grown in God's word and understanding, I figured out that the Bible its not the writing of men but that God Almighty is the Author. His words (the Scripture) were God-breathed into the hearts of those old pen-pushers (writers). Now most of the time God did not dictate the Book word for word but placed the main idea or "item" into the pen-pushers' heads and heart and then watched over them until they had it right. However, when the book was being translated into other languages some of the words and meanings got changed around. In changing some of those things around, the Word began to say some things about homosexuality that were different from God's intent. And that is where so much of our misunderstanding comes from. Still, despite what people said, I still had no problem with my homosexuality and the Bible.

So you see, I really didn't think I needed "A CLASS", but I took the class anyway. (That's Dr. Joe Pearson's seminar.) And I learned more about the original writings of the Bible. I even learned why the writers of the Bible used certain words and what influence traditions had in what was written. We even looked at the changes that were supposed to have occurred as a result of the writing.

We looked at a short video looked in the Word, had a time of sharing, questioning and of answering one another. Let me tell you I was impressed with all the research, material and planning that went into our seminar. Well I did it! I finally took the class, "Christianity and Sexuality" and guess what? I'm going back to get what I missed. Thanks Joe.

Hugs and Kisses to our sister in Christ, Betty Pettigrew for her willingness to provide us photographs of different events throughout the T-E-N weekend. We love you and officially dub you special event photographer of the newsletter. All you do you do in a Christ-like spirit.



POSITIVE

byThomas Winters Jr.

I am positive that I have made mistakes.
I am positive that I will be forgiven for my sins.
I am positive that I will live in love again.
I am positive that there will be many blessings in my future.
I am positive that there is a way I can be of help.
I am positive that this is not the end.
I am positive that I have the strength.
The strength to thrive from my mistakes.
The strength to find an inner strength.
The strength to wait until it's right.
The strength to count the stars at night.
The strength to lend a helping hand to help the whole world understand.
And to use this strength within myself to keep the end upon a shelf.
For I am POSITIVE, you see, with the virus known as HIV.

Tom is an attendee of Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church of Phoenix, Arizona. Tom wrote this poem in 1994.

BACK ON TV

The Cox Cable TV Company in Phoenix recently turned over its public access channel to a private agency. "That Church," the TV ministry of Casa de Cristo has been off the air since December. However, as of mid-March the weekly "That Church" program is back on TV. It can be seen in Phoenix each Monday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. over Cox Cable Channel 22.

"That Church" will also be seen shortly in the Los Angeles area thanks to the Soul Searches Ministry in that area.

He who has a thing to sell
And goes and whispers in a well,
Is not so apt to get the dollar
As he who climbs a tree and hollars.

"He (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, . . ." Mark 16:15-16

(Continued from page 1)

as many musically oriented individuals and couples as can possibly attend.

Information on hotels located in the area of the church where the services, workshops and taping will be held can be obtained by calling the church office of Casa de Cristo (602) 265-2831. Ideally, we would like to see each musician and his/her spouse stay in the same hotel for fellowship and encouragement. However, if you are strapped for funds and desire to be housed with someone locally we will make every effort to assist. Isn't it wonderful that the Lord always provides!

A registration form has been provided in this newsletter. So make copies, give them to friends and then make arrangements to bring your talents and instruments to Phoenix. Please return your registration form to us as soon as possible. See you in June!

For a Free Catalog of
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WORSHIP CONVOCATION

REGISTRATION FORM FOR JUNE 14-16, 1996

Please return completed form and registration fee no later than June 1, 1996 to: **Casa de Cristo, 1029 E. Turney, Phoenix, AZ 85014**

NAME(S):_____

MAILING ADDRESS:_____
STREET NUMBER AND NAME OR PO BOX — CITY — STATE — ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER(S):_____

CHURCH AFFILIATION:_____

PRESENT MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT:_____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT:_____
CONTACT NAME(S) — CONTACT PHONE NUMBER

HOUSING INFORMATION:

WILL YOU BE NEEDING HOUSING? [ ] YES [ ] NO

ARE YOU **SINGLE?** [ ] YES [ ] NO ARE YOU A **COUPLE?** [ ] YES [ ] NO

WILL YOU STAY WHERE THERE IS **SMOKING**? [ ] YES [ ] NO

WILL YOU STAY WHERE THERE IS **PETS?** [ ] YES [ ] NO

WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THE SUNDAY BANQUEST? (COST $20.00 PER PERSON): [ ] YES [ ] NO

(YOU MUST INCLUDE THE $20.00 FEE WITH THIS REGISTRATION FORM TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT THE BANQUET)

MUSIC:

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT? [ ] YES [ ] NO WHAT KIND?_____

ARE YOU BRINGING YOUR MUSIC INSTRUMENT WITH YOU? [ ] YES [ ] NO

DO YOU PLAN ON SINGING IN THE VIDEO? [ ] YES [ ] NO

ARE YOU PART OF A MUSIC GROUP THAT IS ATTENDING? [ ] YES [ ] NO IF YES EXPLAIN:_____

_____

OTHER INFORMATION WE SHOULD HAVE:

_____

_____

_____

_____

There is no fee for attending this convocation. Meals are on your own. There is no guarantee that housing will be available for everyone. The early you request, the better the opportunity that we can find someone to house you.

ON THE HARD DAYS

by Ladona Tornabene, Ph.D., CHES

"On the hard days
I'm gonna look for You
I gotta see You". (Troccoli,1991)

In the lives of every believer, hard days fall. Who do we look to? Who do we look for? There is only ONE who is capable of truly seeing us through these days. I am utterly gripped by the urgency of these lyrics, "I'm gonna look for You. I gotta see You." It almost reminds me of Jacob's wrestling. I have felt at times in my life that if our Lord Jesus Christ did NOT come through strongly on my behalf, I would not have made it on those hard days. It seems that hard days can sometimes take us by complete surprise. The reasons hard days come; however, should be no surprise to the believer. Our Lord does not promise an easy life but He does promise His grace. My definition of GRACE lies in that God's grace is His provision for WHATEVER it is we may be encountering. All of our crosses are different, but no less painful. Hard days may manifest themselves in blatant discrimination or persecution. Some individuals may have been forsaken by parents or spouses or those friends they were closest too. The hurt runs deep. And these are times when fervent heart cries to the Lord reveal:

"Tell me you love me
I need to hear it again
I forget
Some days
That you've said
Always" (Troccoli,1991)

Nothing can pierce our hearts with healing balm as having the personal knowledge that our Creator loves us so intimately. But on the hard days, when all seems so dark and so hopeless, we may not feel our Saviors' precious love. It's on those days we can look to Him with tear filled eyes and a heart ripped with pain and say:

"Tell me you love me
I need to hear it again
I forget
Some days
That you've said
Always" (Troccoli,1991)

Always. He is with us ALWAYS, loving us unconditionally and healing some deep-seeded hurts. Always.

"I can only see with human eyes. Help me look beyond my sight. Oh- keep me going now, keep me knowing now,
You're there-oh-that You're there. On the hard days, I'm gonna look for you; I gotta see you. On the hard days, livin' on the edge but I'm gonna lift my head to you..." (Troccoli,1991).

So when the hard days come and rest assured in one form or another, they will let us lift our head and behold:

"I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help? My help cometh from the Lord" (Psalm 121:1).

On the hard days...

Note: All lyrics were written by Kathy Troccoli, published by Emily Boothe, Inc. (1991) and taken from the song "The Hard Days" off the CD "Pure Attraction". For Kathy, I have no idea what her hard days entailed; however, my rationale for quoting these lyrics was to encourage all believers to rely on the Lord Jesus during their hard days. Hard days will vary as much as individuals vary, but there is one thing that is constant. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever..."(Hebrews 13:8). He remains the same. Always.

THE NEW T-E-N COUNCIL

The T-E-N Council plays a very important part in the operation of this network. They have no legislative powers, however they seek to oversee the fellowship at large. During the Annual T-E-N Weekend which was held the last weekend in February the annual meeting of The Evangelical Network was held. All of the open positions on the Council were filled. Four of the five people elected to serve on the Council were returned to the Council. The T-E-N Council is made up of seven members who are:

Fred L. Pattison's position was not up for reelection this year. He is founder and presiding presbyter of T-E-N. Fred also serves as senior pastor in Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church of Phoenix.

Rada Schaff was re-elected to serve again as the Clerk of T-E-N. Rada is senior pastor of Cornerstone Fellowship of Tucson.

David Cooper was re-elected to serve as Treasurer of T-E-N. David is a member of Casa de Cristo.

Rick Morcombe is senior pastor of Liberty Community Church of Vancouver, British Columbia. Rick was also re-elected to the Council for a three year term.

Todd Ferrell serves as an elder at Freedom In Christ Evangelical Church of San Francisco. Todd had been appointed to fill a vacant position on the Council last year. At this year's T-E-N Assembly Todd was elected to serve in a three year term on the Council.

Ronnie Pigg was elected for his first term on the Council. Ronnie is filling an unexpired term that had become vacant serveral months ago. He is a resident evangelist associated with Casa de Cristo.

Last, but certainly not least, is our sister in Christ Elizabeth Storbo whose term had not expired and continues to serve on the Council as well as chairing the Credentials Committee. Elizabeth is a member of Vancouver's Liberty Community Church where she works closely with Pastor Rick and serves on the board there.

Praise God for the dedication of our T-E-N Council members. You are encouraged to pray for the members of this Council. They are seeking to oversee the work of T-E-N in a manner that glorifies God.

(Continued from page 3)

3. (Exodus 20:7) - God's Name is to be exalted and reverenced by His people at all times and under all circumstances (Ps. 34:3; Pr. 18:10; 2 Tim. 2:19).

4. (Exodus 20:8) - We are to honor one day each week as a special day unto the Lord. A day of worship, praise, remembrance and service (Hebrews 10:24-25).

5. (Exodus 20:12) - We are to honor parents and other elders even though we may disagree with them (Lev. 19:32; 1 Timothy 5:17).

6. (v 13) - We are to avoid murdering others. This goes beyond the physical act of murder (1 Jn. 3:14-24).

7. (v 14) - Committing adultery in one's thought life is equated by Jesus with the physical act (Mt. 5:27-28). This carried out would close down the pornography business and solidify relationship commitments.

8. (v 15) - We are not to take what is not ours (Ephesians 4:28).

9. (16) - We are to be known by our truthfulness and honesty in all things (Col. 3:9-10). Satan is a liar and his followers often follow his example (Jn. 8:42-47). We are to follow our Lord's example (1 Pet. 2:21).

10. (v 17) - We are to be satisfied with what is ours (Luke 12:15).

The reason why our nation and western society is experiencing the ills that it is encountering is because these God-given guidelines are no longer being adhered to. Homosexuals and homosexuality have absolutely nothing to do with these ills.

The Bible clearly declares that as time winds down that there would be an increase in the ills that the world would experience. If you will take a moment to look up the following biblical passages you will discover that none of these mention either homosexuals or homosexuality. (Mt. 24:36-39; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 3:3-10; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5, 12; 4:1-5; 1 Thess. 5:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:1-12).

Actually the above passages are but a sample of what the Word of God teaches would be the conditions prior to the coming of God's Son for His Church, i.e, the believing Church or Body of Christ, not the organized Church which is in unbelief.

Preachers and others who teach that homosexuality is the culprit to which all of the ills of our society can be laid are seeking an easy way out. There is but ONE CULPRIT, and that culprit is sin. Sin is the condition that the human family finds itself in. Sin is part and parcel of the old nature of every human being whether that person is heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or asexual. The Bible declares that everyone is a sinner. See - Romans 3:23; 1 Jn. 1:8. The Bible further declares that sin separates people from God. In fact, the penalty of sin is eternal separation from God. See - Rom. 6:23a; Exod. 18:4, 20a.

Do you get the picture? Everyone, and that means everyone, who has ever lived and walked this planet earth, except Jesus of Nazareth, has sinned and is therefore a sinner. Because of this condition all humans are lost. There is no hope, no means for salvation except that which is presented through the pages of Scripture, i.e, Holy Bible.

The Bible teaches from the entrance of sin into the human family that God would provide a way whereby humans could be brought back into fellowship or right standing with the God. This, and this alone, is the reason why Jesus came to this earth. He came to bring us salvation. He literally became the sacrifice for the penalty of sin which is spiritual death. In His death He has purchased us back into right standing with God. We call this reconciliation. Jesus became our Savior, our atonement (covering). He became sin for you and for me. See -2 Cor. 5:18-21. He now offers the gift of salvation, which is eternal life, to everyone who will believe, by faith, in Him as Savior and Lord. See - John 1:11-13; Romans 10:9-13.

NO THE CULPRIT IS NOT HOMOSEXUALITY NOR HOMOSEXUALS rather the real culprit is Satan and his invention: sin. Friend, you can become free from the power and penalty of sin in your life. How? By personally receiving Jesus Christ. He wants to take up residence in your life. However, you are the one, the only one, who can ask Him to come and live in you. He cares not what your race is, what your educational degrees are, where you live or what your sexual orientation is. He does care that you receive Him into your life. His invitation is extended to you: *"...whoever comes to Me [Jesus] I will never drive away."* (Jn. 6:37b)

Why not ask Jesus Christ to come and live in your heart and life right now? If you are receiving Jesus Christ into your life we would love to hear from you. We would like to help you grow in your Christian life.

VILMA TORRES ORDAINED

Whenever a group of churches get together to set aside a called-out servant of God it is an exciting event. This happened the last Sunday in February at Casa de Cristo. Vilma Torres, after having been examined by a properly called council of sister churches, and recommended for ordination, the service was held. Fred Pattison, Presiding Presbyter of T-E-N and senior pastor of Casa de Cristo, was the overseeing minister of the ordination. A number of pastors for sister churches participated in the laying on of hands of our sister in Christ.

Pastor Vilma with her mother.

Vilma formerly pastored Cristo Rey MCC in New York City. She attended the Harvard Divinity School and came back to New York City to pastor the newly formed independent church, Iglesia Cristo Vivo (Church of the Living Christ).

When in the New York City area why not stop by and worship with this exciting company of believers? The congregation is presently looking for a location where it can hold its services. Presently it is meeting in a home. Our readers are asked to make this a matter of prayer. The congregation wants to find a location somewhere in mid-town Manhattan. Services are conducted in both Spanish and English.

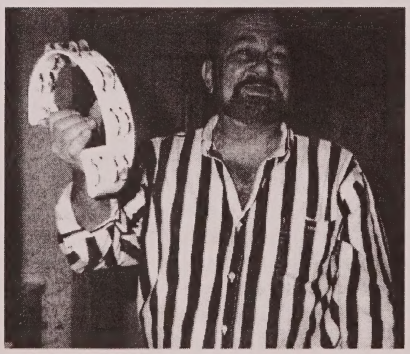
THE MANY FACES OF T-E-N

Weary and worn, eyes weaping
Tears of joy, tears of release
And tears of fatigue
Yet still we look with expectation
And longing at the next time we
Can be complete as a family
Sitting in jubilant expectation and desire
Under the watchful eye of our Patriarch,
Our heavenly Father while
Sharing in the joy that our Brother,
Our Savior and Friend must feel when
He sees us come together as a
Single-minded body.
Yes, weary and worn, eyes weaping
But from sadness that we cannot share
These times together more often
And the few times we do are too short.
Weary and worn, eyes weaping
Not believing so many could love so deeply.

The joy of experiencing the Father.

The joy of sharing with each other.

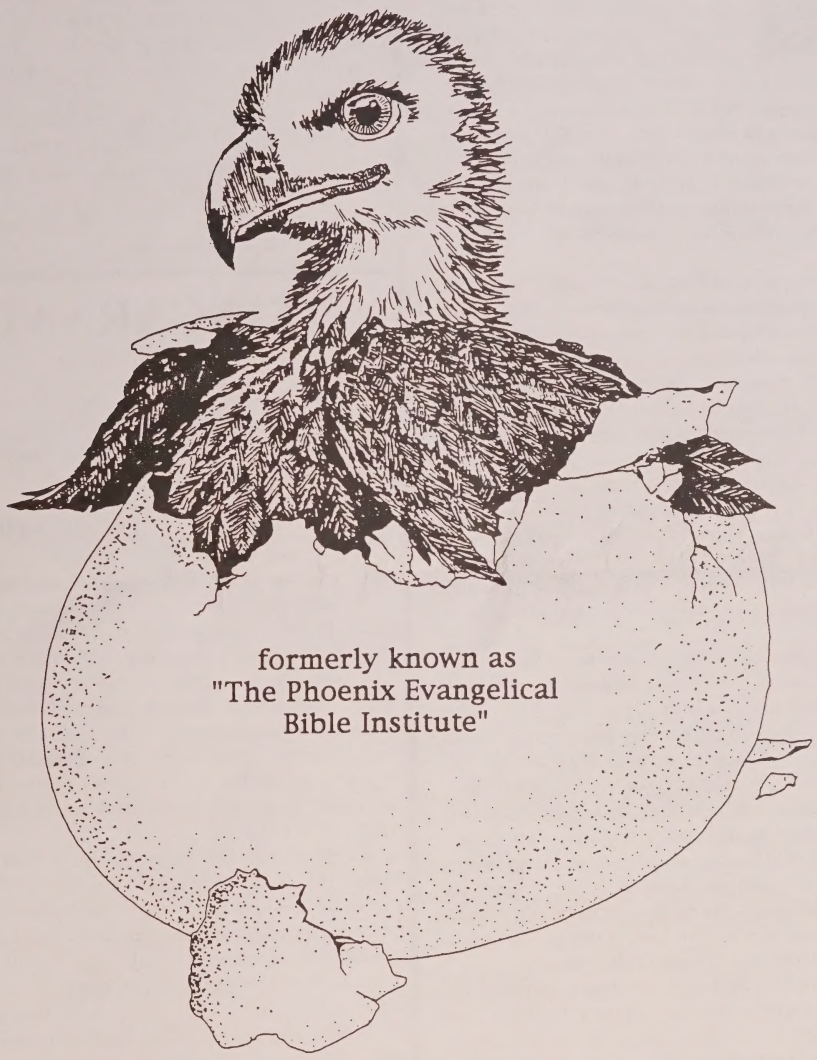
The joy of remembering.
(Fred Pattison in the AIDS MEMORIAL GARDEN.)



The joy of good food from a handsome chef.
(Casa's own Dick Weaver.)

Don't miss the next T-E-N Conference to be hosted by Liberty Community Church of Vancouver British Columbia over the Labor Day weekend. For more information concerning this exciting gathering of evangelical believers contact the Church Office of Liberty Community Church or Casa de Cristo.

ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF . . .
CHRIST EVANGELICAL BIBLE INSTITUTE!



formerly known as
"The Phoenix Evangelical
Bible Institute"

For an updated brochure as well as current listing of correspondence courses, call (602) 265-2831 or write to CEBI at 1035 East Turney, Phoenix, AZ 85014

A Lesson From God's Angels

by Charles Shamblin

"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke." Isaiah 6:1-4 (NIV)

Since they were part of at least the first created order, I like to think that God's holy angels have had eons of years of experience in praise and worship and that is the reason they are so good at it. However in truth, they were created for the role of service and to offer praise and worship before the throne of God. It is their love and devotion to the Holy One (blessed be His name) that makes them so good at what they do. Unlike the redeemed of God (that's you and me) they have no privilege of knowing God as intimately as we do. They can never sing the redemption song. They will never be joints heirs with Jesus to the Kingdom. They can never experience the joy of the indwelling presence of Jesus and His Spirit. In fact, they serve and they praise and they worship. And then they serve and they praise and they worship some more, because that is all they really desire to do.

God's elect angels could serve as model to the Body of Christ. When we look at them as they perform their various tasks and fulfill their service to their Creator we cannot help but be overwhelmed by the awe and humility that seems to overtake and consume them. As Christians we too should be filled with the same sense of awe. We should be continually lost in the flood of love and grace that flows from the throne of God to us without regard to the who, what, where and why of our daily living. We should, with ceasing, be offering up a song of praise for the grace that was made manifest to us through Jesus Christ. Something the fallen angels can never experience. We should daily prostrate ourselves before the Lord in worship (awe) and simply glory at the privilege of being in His presence.

The model given to in the Isaiah 6 passage is one that would change the face of the universal church if we as believers would adopt it as a standard for Christian living. The seraphim flying around the throne of God through the positioning of their wings demonstrate an attitude of Kingdom living we all would do well to mime. They cover their faces to demonstrate that they have nothing but deep reverence for their Maker. They are overwhelmed by the mere fact they have access and freedom to enjoy the presence of the Living God. There can be no greater privilege than to enter into the holy of holies for direct communion with God. It is an experience that should be sought after by every living creature in the universe.

Humility is represented by the wings that cover their feet. They cover their feet so as to communicate that they are servants seeking to serve and not royalty desiring to be served. To them, being a foot-washer in God's kingdom is much more rewarding than seeking after someone to wash their feet. No titles or glory for themselves instead it is reserved only for their God.

The third lesson we learn from the seraphim is that of the two wings in constant motion as they hover around the throne. This is a visual representation of their willingness and readiness to serve God whatever the circumstances. Their submission to His will is evident by their constant vigil of preparedness to do as He bids.

Finally, is the fact that they sing a never-ending phrase of "Holy, Holy, Holy". "Kadosh, Kadosh, Kadosh," -- the song creation, the song of the celebration forever flows from their lips. Our prayer should be likewise. Let every word that flows from my lips be in praise of my Lord, my Savior, my Creator.

Yes, we can learn a lot from angels!

REINCARNATION

by Fred L. Pattison

Is reincarnation a biblical teaching? Should Christians believe in reincarnation? Why do biblical Christians reject reincarnation as contrary to the Bible? Why do so many gays and lesbians believe in reincarnation.

WHAT IS REINCARNATION?

A dictionary definition is: *"rebirth in new bodies or forms of life; esp: a rebirth of a soul in a new body."*

Reincarnation is not a new belief. It has been around for centuries. Its roots are in Hinduism. Hinduism is a heathen satanic religion from India that is rapidly influencing the western world. As Christianity is increasingly watered-down and biblical doctrine is compromised the door is opening wider to error and false teachings of various kinds. The caste system in Hindu India would crumble without its belief in reincarnation. Reincarnation is also part of the belief system of the occult, spiritism, witchcraft, goddess religion, many nominal Christians and the nearly all New Agers.

Psychics teach that the spirits of the dead are all about the living. They believe that contact with the dead is possible. Jesus Christ, on the other hand, taught that the spirits of the dead are either in heaven [dead believers] or in Hades [present abode of the departed unbelieving dead]. See - Lk. 16:19-31; Jn. 8:21. There is no middle plane, no purgatory, no floating about in the air of the souls/spirits of those who have died. The Bible teaches the existence of demons [fallen angels whose allegiance is to Satan]. Demons are able to masquerade as the spirits of people who have died. Demons are knowledgeable about the past life of everyone who has ever lived and died. Demons are able to present facts as well as imitate the voices of those who have once lived and have died. Demons are called "familiar spirits" in Scripture. God's people are commanded to have nothing to do with familiar spirits. See - Lev. 19:31; 20:6,27; Dt. 18:9-13; 1 Sam. 28:3,7-9; 2 Ki. 21:6; 23:24; 1 Chr. 10:13; 2 Chr. 33:6; Is.

(Continued on page 11)

GET READY PHOENIX

Summer is just around the corner. Those who live in Phoenix know what that means...hot, hot and hotter.

We're getting ready for an exciting summer at Casa de Cristo. In spite of the heat outside we are expectant that the Holy Spirit is going to move in our midst as never before. We are anxiously looking for lost souls to be saved during these coming summer months. We are also praying for many who have been disenfranchised from other churches to find a home within this assembly.

Those of you living in other parts of nation and in Canada and South Africa are asked to pray that Casa de Cristo will experience a moving of God's Spirit in a way that has never happened before.

8:18-20; 19:3.

A future resurrection awaits all who have died. Believers will receive a resurrected body. See - 1 Cor. 15. Unbelievers await a spiritual prison [hell]. See - Rev. 20:11-15; 1 Pet. 3:18-20. When a believer dies his/her spirit enters immediately into the presence of God. See - 2 Cor. 5:6-9. We decide while living in the flesh here on earth where we will spend eternity; heaven or hell. There is no second chance, no coming back in another form, body or in another life.

IS DEATH REAL?

The mind-science and New Age philosophy teach that death is unreal. According to the popular Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, there is no death. It should be noted that Dr. Kubler-Ross, whose writings are widely read and used by many Christians, is a spiritist.

Satan was the first one to promote this idea. See - Gen. 3:1-4. Death is a real enemy, however it will be finally defeated. See - 1 Cor. 15:54-58.

THE CLINICALLY DEAD

You may be asking: *"What about people who have been declared clinically dead and have returned to this life?"* Satan is the master of deceit. Those who have been declared, by human beings, clinically dead have not crossed over into eternity. Satan is deceiving humans to believe that some have died, only to return to their body and to this life. A person in a deep, deep coma or as Dave Hunt writes in his book, *The Cult Explosion, "demonic manipulation of the brain cells as any other altered state of consciousness,"* may explain the clinically dead.

"Out-of-body" experiences, visits to other planes, etc. are contrary to biblical teaching. Some charismatics are deceived in this area. There is a segment of the Charismatic Movement that borders on occult practices. Satan is far more clever than we imagine him to be. He is out to deceive and take power that belongs rightfully to God alone. Satan is powerful but not all powerful. God alone is all powerful! Remember, Satan is the master deceiver.

Reincarnation cannot be Christianized. Job wrote, *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. After my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see God with my own eyes - I and not another. How my heart yearns within me!"* (Job 19:25-27). This wonderful promise is for all biblical believers.

Reincarnation offers a false and misguided hope. Where does it end? If reincarnation were true, then the atoning sacrificial death of Christ was pointless. It was a waste. It would have no meaning or purpose. The biblical doctrine of salvation would be valueless and Christians have been duped into believing a lie if reincarnation was true. However, reincarnation is a lie. We need to prepare for eternity now! Faith, rather than fate or karma, is the principle by which we are to live. Decision to personally receive Christ as Savior and Lord must be made now before death. After death is too late.

WHAT IS NIRVANA?

According to Webster it is *"the final beatitude that transcends suffering, karma, and samsara and is sought esp. in Buddhism through the extinction of desire and individual consciousness...a place or a state of oblivion to care, pain, or eternal reality."*

What a contrast the pagan nirvana is with the hope of the biblical believer in a literal heaven. Nirvana offers the hopelessness of reincarnation whereas the Bible offers hope and assurance of eternal life with God. The last book of the Bible [Revelation] chapters 21 and 22 present a glimpse into the glory that awaits believers. Biblical Christians have an assurance that no religion is able to offer its followers. The believer's hope, assurance and faith is rooted in the Rock of Salvation; Jesus Christ. The essence of this hope of believers is based on the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Contrary to what many cults teach, Jesus did not raise as spirit, but rose literally from the grave in the flesh. He was not reincarnated but alive and well in the very same body. We are saved because of the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Heaven is the promised destination for all who know God through His Son, all who have been born-again. Everyone who personally trusts [receives] Jesus Christ is assured of heaven and eternal life without a reincarnation of body, soul or spirit. See - 1 Pet. 2:9-11; Heb. 11:6; 1 Jn. 3:2-3.

We all face physical death. When believers die they enter into the presence of God. All believers will one day appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. This is not a judge-ment for salvation, rather for the believer's life and works. See - Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10. Unbelievers also face judgment. Their judgment will be at the Great White Throne. At that judgment they will be turned away from the presence of God for eternity. See - Rev. 20:7-22:5. The born-again believer is promised a new body. This resurrected body will be a perfect one without any defect. See - 1 Cor. chapter 15.

Do not be deceived by religion and false belief systems. Religion is Satan's deception. *"There is a way that seems right to a person, but in the end it leads to death [separation from God]."* (Prov. 14:12). Religion leads to spiritual death (Mt. 7:21-23). God's way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ. See - Jn. 14:6; 3:36; 5:24; Acts 4:12; 16:31. You, too, can have the assurance of eternal life with God by having Christ as your Savior and Lord. See - Jn. 1:12-13; Rom. 10:9-13; 1 Jn. 5:11-13.

The Biblical Christian
c/o Cristo Ministries
P.O. Pox 16104
Phoenix, AZ 85011

Inside this issue:

Report on T-E-N Weekend
Worship Convocation Report
Will Hawaii Come Through
Angels as our Model

WORSHIP CONVOCATION
JUNE 14-16, 1996

FEATURING WORSHOPS:

- Music in Worship
- Mimistry in Worship
- The Role of the Worshiper
- Leading God's People in Worship
- Role of the Worship Team
- Plus Much More!!!!!

THE CONCLUSION OF THE EVENT WILL BE THE PRODUCTION OF A VIDEO ENTITLED "THE REMNANT SINGS"

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Ronnie Pigg or D.L. Salsbury Through Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church, Phoenix, AZ
Phone (602) 265-2831 or Fax (602) 265-2918

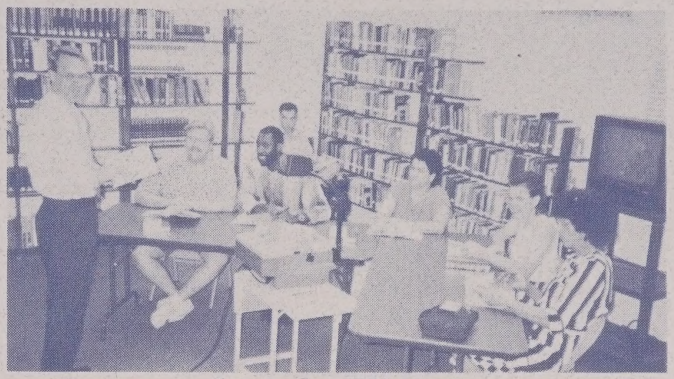
Christ Evangelical Bible Institute

1035 East Turney Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85014 (602) 265-2831

MISSION STATEMENT

CEBI's primary purpose is to train and equip gay and lesbian Christians for responsible full and part-time ministry.

CEBI's mission also includes spreading the gospel message to nonbelievers, especially those who have been disenfranchised and outcast because of sexual orientation and/or sexual identity.



Class in the CEBI Library

ABOUT CEBI:

Christ Evangelical Bible Institute, or ***CEBI*** (formerly known as *The Phoenix Evangelical Bible Institute*), is a full time Bible training school for Christian gays and lesbians.

The Bible Institute was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1991 and shares facilities with *Casa de Cristo Evangelical Church.* Both are independent and non-denominational.

The CEBI staff seeks to facilitate the integration of the Christian lifestyle and homosexual orientation with an emphasis on biblical morality. Moreover, CEBI takes the commission given by our Lord very seriously. That commission instructs us to "go," "make disciples," "baptize," and "teach."

We are convinced that there is a need for Christian workers in the gay and lesbian community who have a sound foundation in the Bible, who are Christ-centered, and who are properly trained in the work of ministry. And, we believe that every Christian has a ministry.

CEBI students may fulfill requirements for a Christian Worker's Certificate (equivalent to one year of full time study) or a Bachelor of Ministry degree (equivalent to three years of full time study). Students may also take courses on a part-time basis without pursuing a certificate or degree.

Regardless of the number of courses you take, we do hope you will avail yourself of the many opportunities at CEBI to learn more about your Savior as well as to grow in your walk with Him.

Dr. Joseph Adam Pearson, CEBI President and Pastor Fred Pattison, CEBI Doctrinal Consultant and Board Member

CEBI . . . a place where all people . . .
. . . can honor the Lord Jesus Christ

Why CEBI?

Previously, Christian gays and lesbians who wanted to study the Bible had only two choices: Either they could go to a school that accepted them while it watered down Scripture (due to "theological liberalism") or they could go to a school which threatened expulsion if they were honest about who they really are. Now, CEBI offers Christian gays and lesbians a climate whose educational environment is conducive to their learning without compromising the gospel message.

Who is welcome at CEBI?

Students are welcome at CEBI if they are members of a denominational or an independent church. Those who are not members of a local church are also welcome. Students who are pursuing a certificate and/or degree from CEBI must subscribe to the school's Articles of Faith.

What are CEBI's academic standards?

The primary text and sole authority for all courses taught at CEBI is the Bible. From God's written Word, believers derive spiritual scholarship. God's Holy Spirit takes the Word and enables believers to accurately understand and apply God's truth to the personal lives of each one who allows this to happen.

Is CEBI accredited?

Due to the uniqueness of CEBI, accreditation appears to be in the distant future. Although CEBI is a member of ***T-E-N*** ("The Evangelical Network"), CEBI is not pursuing membership in an accreditation agency at this time.

How much is tuition?

Tuition per trimester hour is at the rate of $12.50. This rate is the same for credit or audit.

Programs available:

The *Christian Worker's Certificate* is basic and designed for those who are interested in increased involvement in their local church and/or who wish to be more effective witnesses.

The *Bachelor of Ministry* degree is designed to help prepare students for the work of ministry as pastors, chaplains, evangelists, or teachers.

Does CEBI ordain?

CEBI does not ordain. Ordination is properly reserved for local churches, not schools. Graduation from CEBI does not automatically guarantee ordination by *Casa de Cristo* or another assembly.

Call us at (602) 265-2831 today!

Correspondence Courses

Christ Evangelical Bible Institute (CEBI)
1035 East Turney Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85014

Update: Summer, 1996
Phone: (602) 265-2831

MISSION STATEMENT

CEBI's primary purpose is to train and equip gay and lesbian Christians for responsible full and part-time ministry.

CEBI's mission also includes spreading the gospel message to nonbelievers, especially those who have been disenfranchised and outcast because of sexual orientation and/or sexual identity.

ABOUT THE COURSES:

Following are course descriptions and fees. Included in the fee for each course are the costs for text and tuition as well as postage and handling. (Each student is responsible for his/her mailings back to us.)

A certificate is sent upon completion of each course. Materials for the requested course(s) will be sent upon receipt of all required fees.

Christianity and Homosexuality

One cannot effectively minister within the gay and lesbian community until he/she has reconciled his/her sexuality with the Bible and the Christian faith This course enables the student to consider what the Bible really says about the subject!

Tuition (1 credit hour)	12.50
Textbook	15.00
Postage & Handling	7.00
Total	34.50

Christology

Don't let the name scare you: It simply refers to the doctrine of Christ. Christ is at the center of what biblical Christians believe and determines how they differ from cultists, New-Agers and theological liberals. The deity of Christ is central to biblical Christianity. Believers need to know what to believe about the teachings of Christ!

Tuition (3 credit hours)	37.50
Textbook	16.00
Postage & Handling	6.00
Total	59.50

Church History I

This course focuses on aspects of the history of the Christian Church from its beginnings through 1500 A.D. It includes people, places, and events that helped shape the growth and development of the Church up to the time of the Reformation.

Tuition (2 credit hours)	25.00
Textbook	22.00
Postage & Handling	7.00
Total	54.00

Church History II

This course traces modern church history from the time of the German Reformation until the present. As a continuation of Church History I, this course provides the student with a extra sense of his/her Christian "roots."

Tuition (2 credit hours)	25.00
Textbook	22.00
(The same text is used for Church History I.)	
Postage & Handling	7.00
Total	54.00

Angels and Demons

If you have been wondering what is going on in the world of the invisible that has to do with daily living, then this course is a must for you! How can you have victory over spiritual warfare? What principalities and powers really exist? How does the "prince of the power of the air" actually operate? How can Christians depend on angels without becoming cultish? All of these questions and more will be answered in this timely and interesting course.

Tuition (2 credit hours)	25.00
Textbook	15.00
Postage & Handling	6.00
Total	46.00

See backside for other courses.

Requirements for the Third Year Bachelor of Ministry Program . . .

Trimester I

Principles of Teaching	3
Spiritual Gifts	2
Pastoral Ministry	2
Ephesians	1
Synoptic Gospels*	1
Elective	1
Total	10

Trimester II

Christian Counseling	3
Reformation, Renewal and Restoration	2
Prayer Life	2
Christian Ethics	1
OT Symbolism	1
Elective(s)	2
	11

Trimester III

Daniel and Revelation	3
Church Administration	2
Homiletics	2
Biblical Morality	1
Bible Customs & Mores	1
Elective(s)	2
Total	11

* These courses are also offered through the CEBI Correspondence Study Division.

In addition to prescribed course-work, all third year students are expected to devote 12 hours per week to a CEBI-directed field experience that is ministry-related.

For a copy of the next **Trimester Course Schedule**, or additional information, call (602) 265-2831 or write to CEBI.

Christ Evangelical Bible Institute
1035 East Turney Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85014